

Auxier faces civil charges

Alleged victim files suit for emotional distress, former teacher claims defamation

By ABBY SIMONS
EDITOR IN CHIEF

As Vicki Auxier awaits trial for felony statutory rape charges, the mother of her alleged teenage victim has filed a civil lawsuit against the former Maryville High School teacher. In the meantime, attorneys for Auxier have issued a counterclaim.



VICKI AUXIER

In a petition filed March 8 in Nodaway County Circuit Court, Kansas City attorney Stephen Mirakian requested actual and punitive damages on behalf of the minor, charging that Auxier is responsible for negligent infliction of emotional distress, violation of federally protected rights and violation of civil rights.

In a counterclaim filed April 7, Maryville attorney Spencer Miller alleged on Auxier's behalf that the charges of sexual misconduct are false. In turn, Miller requested actual and punitive damages from the minor for defamation of character.

The minor's petition charges that, during summer 2003, Auxier repeatedly instigated "wrongful and outrageous sexual contact" with the student, then 16, in her home, at a secluded location in rural Nodaway County and in Iowa. Soon after the summer encounters, he avoided further sexual contact with Auxier.

Afterward, it is alleged that in fall 2003, Auxier "wrongfully used her position as a teacher at Maryville R-II High School to retaliate...and to create a hostile environment by telling other teachers and students that (he) was a discipline problem and a bad person." The actions allegedly resulted in emotional harm and distress to the minor. Mirakian requested a jury trial to hear the claims.

Yet, in the counterclaim, Miller alleges that the minor defamed her by providing information to Maryville Public Safety which was false, and "tended to expose (Auxier) to contempt and ridicule and to deprive (Auxier) of the benefit of public confidence and social associations."

In a third brief filed Tuesday, Mirakian refuted the counterclaim on the grounds that the minor's accusations are true, and that, as a minor, he is granted privilege to make a report to law enforcement authorities.

Both Miller and Mirakian were unavailable for comment at press time. A status review hearing for the case is set for July.

Log on to missourianonline.com for further details on this developing story.

"Every time I think about leaving, I look up close and think, 'Why would I want to start all over?'"

- DEAN HUBBARD



Dean Hubbard celebrates two decades of playing an integral role in Northwest's tradition of success

By PETE GUTSCHENRITTER
ASSIGNMENT EDITOR

Before Dean Hubbard ever set foot in Maryville to accept the job as Northwest president in August of 1984, he received a call.

Only it was not a call he expected. Shaila Aerie, then-commissioner of the Coordinating Board of Higher Education, called Hubbard to her office in Columbia when he was still living in Lincoln, Neb.

"She said there was a strong movement to close (Northwest) and build a prison. She said, 'We can put all the Missouri residents in Central (Missouri State University).'"

Needless to say, Northwest did not close down. Instead, it prospered under Hubbard to become a state and national treasure in higher education.

Thanks to the switch that was turned on to begin the Electronic Campus and the countless awards and recognition for quality, Northwest made a transition.

It went from a small, rural college—predominantly known for elementary education majors—to a school that is described by many as one of the most effective universities in the country.

And while Hubbard manned the same post for 20 years and has had his name on all the billings, he is quick to give credit where it is due.

"It's easy for me to take credit (for the successes at North-

west), but there are a lot of people helping me," he said.

Hubbard came to Maryville on Aug. 1, 1984, with his wife Aleta. A photo in an '84 edition of *The Northwest Missourian* shows a striking resemblance between Hubbard and actor Tim Robbins as he answers questions from the press.

Coming from Union College in Lincoln was something he wanted to do.

"I wanted to establish good quality education at an undergraduate level," Hubbard said. "This has been a great place to do that. Every time I thought about leaving, I look up close and think, 'Why would I want to start over?'"

(Please see Hubbard' page A7)

Fun in the Sun



Hudson Hall resident Amber Hohensee voluntarily flies down the Slip 'n Slide at the Hudson Hula Tuesday afternoon. The event was sponsored by the Hudson Hula Council and featured a Hula Hoop contest, sand volleyball, a water balloon toss, a Slip 'n Slide, and a limbo contest with each person receiving a free barbecue dinner. With the weather in the mid-60s, water events were colder than usual but did not stop several students from joining in the fun. "The Hudson Hula was a blast," said Hohensee. "Sacrificing being warm for a couple of hours was well worth the chance to experience a little bit of my childhood while at college."

Community grieves over graduate's suicide

Counselors urge affected students to voice feelings

By ABBY SIMONS
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Tromp, as he was affectionately dubbed, didn't know a stranger.

He never had an enemy, and was gifted with a grin that could illuminate even the darkest room.

These were only a few of the descriptions of 2003 Northwest graduate Joe Trompeter by fraternity brothers and countless friends. None, however, fit the mold of a man whose life would end so tragically.

Trompeter, 22, was found dead Saturday in a patch of timber behind the Alpha Kappa Lambda fraternity house, a victim of suicide by asphyxiation. Local authorities estimate that the incident occurred in the early morning hours Friday. Trompeter's death—the third suicide affiliated with Northwest since January—left his friends and classmates heartbroken and searching for answers.

"Trompeter liked to live, he put a smile on everyone's face," said Nick Roumas, Trompeter's roommate and AKL fraternity brother. "I can't think of a single person that was his enemy. Everyone liked him."

After graduating last May with a degree in management information systems, Trompeter, a native of Atchison, Kan., lived and

worked in Kansas City, Mo., while frequently returning to Maryville. Close local ties to Trompeter were reflected in the grief resonating throughout Northwest as news of his death spread. A candlelight vigil held Sunday night at the AKL house attracted nearly 100 students, while others traveled to Atchison Tuesday and Wednesday for visitation and funeral services.

Such support, be it from friends or professionals, is crucial for Northwest students affected by Trompeter's death, according to Mike Mattock of the Northwest Counseling Center.

"We're essentially social beings, so we need the assistance of one another to process our feelings," Mattock said. "In this case, suicide tends to leave people feeling helpless, and there's nothing you can do with regards to the individual, so it's important for people to talk to other people to vent their feelings and get it out."

Mattock encourages students in need to contact the Counseling Center at 562-1220. Counselors are available 24 hours a day and can be accessed through Residential Life and Campus Safety. In light of the recent tragedies, the University will also look into expanding its activities pertaining to suicide-related issues including depression screenings and more.

(Please see 'Community' page A7)

Administrators say it's now or never for proposed merger with UM system

By PETE GUTSCHENRITTER
ASSIGNMENT EDITOR

Northwest President Dean Hubbard summed up the fate of the proposed merger with the University of Missouri system in nine words Tuesday.

"It will be dropped if it does not pass."

Hubbard reaffirmed that statement after spending more than a year selling the merger to students, faculty and legislators.

He also confirmed he is in agreement with UM system President Elson Floyd.

"I'm not willing to go (to the General Assembly) next session," Hubbard said. "We've spent enough time and energy on it. We have other things to concern ourselves with. (Provost) Taylor Barnes is leaving and I have to find a replacement, the centennial is coming up and there will be a Baldrige site visit in the fall. I'm not sure what the value of it is if it doesn't pass this session."

The announcement comes one week after Kent Porterfield, vice president of Student Affairs, told *The Missourian* everyone in the President's Cabinet "realizes there's still a long way to go in the process."

However, he also indicated that if it didn't pass this session, State Sen. David Klindt and State Rep. Brad Lager would have to introduce the merger next session.

As it turns out, Hubbard is not the

only Cabinet member thinking about saying goodbye to the merger.

"I think we have to table (the merger)," said Ray Courter, vice president of Finance. "To be in between (the UM system and Northwest's budget situations) is more challenging than being a part of the system or independent."

While that statement may have some validity to it, Lager says he is cautious of

(Please see 'President' page A7)

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Web Extras:

Log on today to read an exclusive on the benefits and costs of CatPAWS, Northwest's new information database.

Last week's poll:

Who is your early favorite to win the MLB World Series?

- 54.9% Royals - this is their year!
- 37.3% Steinbrenner's Money (a.k.a. The Yankees)
- 5.9% Red Sox - Bean-town will break the curse.
- 2.0% Astros - They have the guns to get it done.

Online poll:

How do you plan on handling your school-work overload?

- a. Drink a gallon of coffee and pull all-nighters.
- b. Drink a gallon of beer at Mug Night.
- c. Relieve some stress by working out.
- d. Listen to Kelly Clarkson!

FBI agent warns of identity theft Race for Senate president heats up

By SARAH SWEDBERG
CHIEF REPORTER

Alumna and Human Resources Secretary Michelle Drake used her Bearcat card everywhere on campus when she attended Northwest. Her nine-digit social security number even appeared on class grade printouts posted outside of faculty offices.

But when she needed to apply for a mortgage to purchase a house, Drake discovered she had become a victim of identity theft.

"It hit home, that this is real, that somebody had stolen my identity," she said. "Then I began to question 'how much do they know about me, how did they get this, where are they now and are they going to do this again?'"

At the time Drake applied for a mortgage with her banker in 1998 she was also trying to prepare for her life after graduation.

"So not only did I have to deal with the stress and emotions of this problem, but I was getting ready to get married and I was trying to get a house, start my adult life and graduate," she said. "It was very draining and I felt helpless."

Drake said she spent \$150 in phone calls and postage in trying to remove \$600 one individual made in phone calls from Akron, Ohio on her credit.

When Drake attended Campus Safety's identity theft presentation Monday, she was reminded of her experience and the importance of being aware of identity theft.

"It brought back memories, all the trouble I went through, all the calls, all the time I spent trying to figure out how to fix the problem," Drake said. "But he did have some good ideas and I hope people took it seriously."

She said that the information FBI Special Agent Mickey Roberts, of the St. Joseph Resident Agency presented refreshed her memory of what kinds of actions she needs to take to prevent a recurrence of identity theft.

Roberts told a crowd of faculty and students about identity

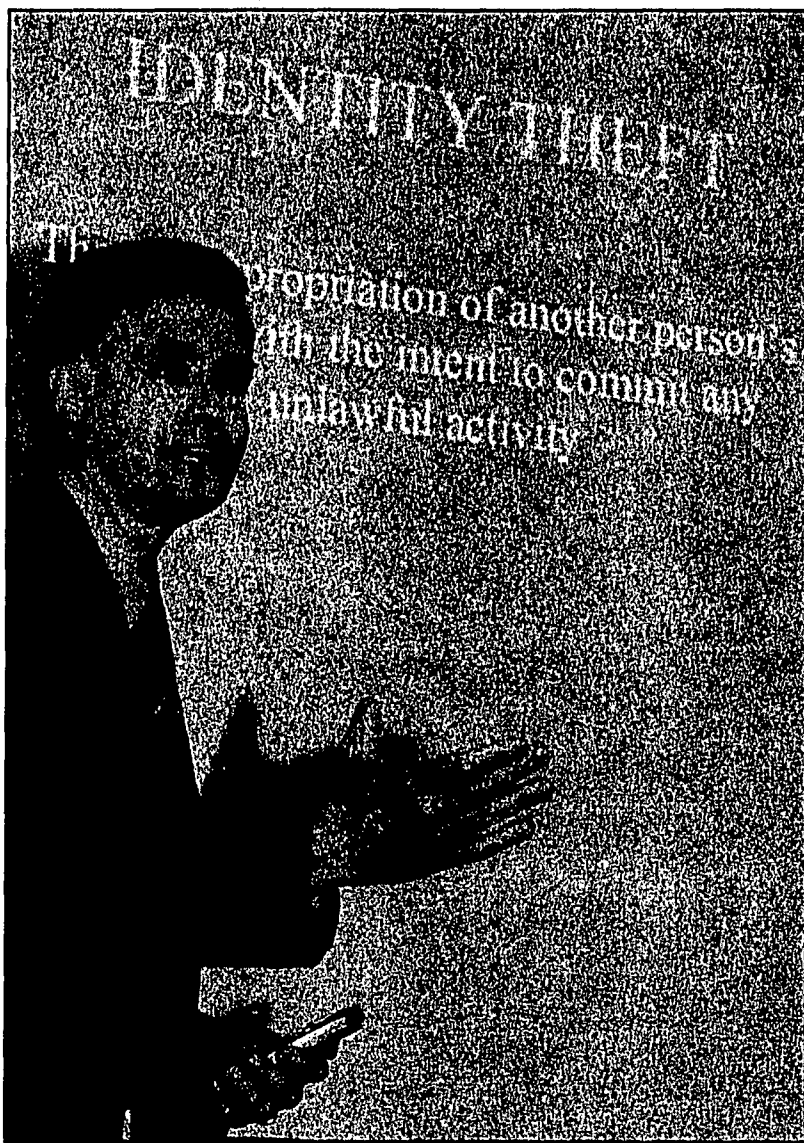


PHOTO BY LAURA CADY/CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER
FBI agent Mickey Roberts speaks to several students and faculty about the dangers of identity theft. Roberts gave advice as to how to avoid being a victim. The presentation took place on Monday in the Union Boardroom.

theft—who is affected by it, how identity thieves steal and how they can prevent and correct identity theft.

"We can't stop it completely," he said. "All we can do is minimize it."

Most importantly, he told individuals to order their credit report yearly and to be cautious with their bank account, social security numbers, credit cards and other identification information.

"The more we can tell people, the more we can prevent it from happen-

ing," Roberts said.

Roberts, who deals with identity theft in 17 northwest Missouri counties, said more than one million people per year are affected by identity theft. He said the amount of people troubled by it increases every year. He adds that more elderly are victimized by identity theft each year than college students.

"Young college students may not worry about identity theft now, but the better students protect themselves now, the better off they are in the future," Roberts said.

By PETE GUTSCHENRITTER
ASSIGNMENT EDITOR

While Chase Cornett and Kristin Helmink have differences in their run for Student Senate president this week, they do have one thing in common.

Both recognize the improvements Senate has made in bringing student forums and online voting.

And at a time when the merger and the newly-revised student activities proposal being voted on this week, Helmink realizes the importance of this election.

"It's exciting to let people know (about the Senate election)," she said. "It can seem like there are such apathetic students on campus, I just want them to get in and vote. I think it's good to stress the importance of this election."

The Senate election coincides with the student activities fee vote—both of which are on WebSTAR.

While Cornett said he was pleased with the collaboration Senate made with Resident Hall Association and the Senate-sponsored polls and forums, he would like to see more involvement.

"We're going to try and include campus-wide service projects to get different organizations involved," Cornett said. "Student Senate needs to continue being more external."

Along with reducing apathy among students, Helmink wants to get people from different spectrums of the University.

"Within Senate, we need more diversification," she said. "We get the same

crowd to come to Senate meetings. A lot of people will sometimes say, 'Well, all of my friends are here, so I'm covered.' We need to be more personable."

Cornett also recognizes the need to diversify Senate, but he thinks it can be handled differently.

"It's sometimes hard to get students to speak out," he said. "They don't get involved sometimes, but we need to keep people more up to date."

Overall, Helmink hopes for a good turnout online.

"It's going to be a very close election," she said. "The neat thing is this is a very important election and I wish Chase a lot of luck."

Students may vote through Friday on WebSTAR.

Employment banquet rewards students

By SARAH SWEDBERG
CHIEF REPORTER

Walking up to the podium, Northwest student employee Kari Frerking was speechless Tuesday after receiving two honors.

"I never expected it," Frerking said. "I didn't think I did anything out of the ordinary in my job."

Frerking accepted both the Northwest Student Employee of the Year award as well as the Missouri Student Employee of the Year award.

Frerking said it meant a lot to her to be recognized, especially by the marketing and management faculty who nominated her.

"It was really humbling to be recognized," she said. "It is such a honor to work with those faculty, especially getting to know them, watching them and following in their footsteps."

Student Employment Coordinator Paula McLain along with President Dean Hubbard acknowledged Frerking for her outstanding reliability, quality of work, initiative, uniqueness of contribution and professionalism.

"It's a thrill for her," McLain said. "I'm excited for her."

Frerking has shown her character the past four years as an office assistant in the Marketing and Management office.



PHOTO BY NIKI CADER/CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER

Kari Frerking listens to the letter that nominated her for the Missouri State Student Employee of the year. Frerking was given a plaque, certificate, and a monetary award for the recognition.

Her responsibilities included formatting and editing as an assistant editor of the Regional Business Review, evaluating papers and entering grades in professors' gradebooks, among many other tasks.

She said her experience has given her the opportunity to create relationships with the faculty she assists and the nec-

essary skills to use in her future career.

"The last four years has taught me a lot about professionalism and what I will be expected to do in the future," Frerking said.

KXCV and KRNW received the Outstanding Student Employment Team award and B.D. Owens Library reserve generalist Guili Coniglio was named Supervisor of the Year.

Five student employees were honored with Outstanding Student Employee awards out of 900 student employees in 110 departments.

Outreach Education office assistant Tarryn Dicke was given the Commitment to Professionalism Award. Missouri Academy office assistant Rachel Fowler was awarded with the Commitment to Initiative Award. Northwest Regional Professional Development Center student employee Kelli Livengood received the Uniqueness of Contribution Award. Client Computing-Information Systems student employee Nathan Welch was honored with the Outstanding Quality of Work Award. Geology and Geography office assistant Katie Owens received the Outstanding Reliability Award.

These award recipients were chosen by an eight-person committee made up of student employee supervisors who had not submitted nominations.

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JUST THINK

Two candidates remain in running for dean position

By SARAH SWEDBERG
MISSOURIAN REPORTER

In the next two weeks the dean search committee for the Booth College of Business and Professional Studies must decide between two educators and businessmen.

"We have two very strong finalists," Provost Taylor Barnes said. "I hope to make a recommendation to President Hubbard and our Board (of Regents) soon."

The two finalists include Thomas Billesbach, who currently chairs Northwest's department of marketing and management, and William Carner, who serves as the director of the business foundations program in the University of Texas-Austin's department of marketing.

One of these men will replace Ron DeYoung in the fall. The new dean will be announced by May 1.

These candidates met with President Dean Hubbard, the President's Cabinet, the Deans Council, Booth College and University chairs, staff and students. Each candidate's interview lasted two days.

In the next three days the search committee will review faculty, staff and student feedback on each candidate and their credentials.

Billesbach's expertise is in management. He currently organizes student internships in management, marketing and international business. He also manages the independent studies in management, multinational management, marketing and the business study abroad program.

Before coming to Northwest in 1994, he was an assistant professor in the information systems and quantitative analysis in the College of Business Administration at the University of Nebraska-Omaha.

Outside of the classroom, he is an advisor, consultant, trainer and seminar leader in a private practice dealing with operations management/control, technology and other management-related topics.

Carner's expertise is in marketing with emphasis in finance and economics. Right now he is responsible for the 10,000 students at the University of Texas-Austin who enroll in classes within the Business Foundations Program. He carries out the curriculum planning and expansion of courses and sets the fulfillment requirements for certification among many other things.

Carner said he chose to apply for the dean position because he wanted to return to Missouri.

"I wanted to come back to my native Midwest," he said. "It's where I'd rather be."



TOM
BILLESBACH



WILLIAM
CARNER

Safe Ride Home program proves successful during pilot

By SCOTT HILL
MISSOURIAN REPORTER

Students can feel safer now that the Safe Ride Home Program has hit the streets.

Clarence Green, director of Campus Safety, says he is extremely happy with the results of the program.

"The program has exceeded all of my expectations," Green said. "I really didn't know how many people would actually get use out of the program and it has really taken off beyond what I would have ever expected."

The program has yet to have any problems consisting of sick or violent passengers and has provided students with a safe ride home on Friday and Saturday nights between 9 p.m. and 3 a.m.

This is the first semester for the

program, which first began operation on Feb. 27. According to Green, the program is in its pilot stage and will have to gain approval for funding from the University's Presidential Cabinet to continue next fall.

"We have a survey out right now that Student Senate has put on the internet for us," Green said. "Once we have good, positive feedback from the students, I think it can go forward."

Green spoke of a desire to upgrade the current system if funding is approved. He said that he would like to silence complaints of long waits by adding more drivers, more vans, and expanding the program as a whole.

"We're at capacity right now," Green said. "Each night we get flooded with calls and people have to wait for our one van. We hope to get

two or maybe three vans going for next fall."

More than 83 percent of students called the program between midnight and 3 a.m. Green talked about possibly changing the program's time frame for next year to better fit the students' needs. He said that they are currently discussing the possibility of running the program later from 10 p.m. to 3 a.m. or even from 10 p.m. to 4 a.m.

He expects to hear a decision from the cabinet regarding funding by June 1 and says it is his hope that the program can continue to serve the students well into next year.

"We want to be a positive program that will help prevent possible unsafe situations," Green said. "Our goal is to get you home safe and we will do all that we can to help make that happen."

Safe Ride Home: 2004 Review

	Total	Friday	Saturday
Number of Calls	190	95	95
Number of People Transported	337	161	176
Sex of Transported Individuals	Total	Male	Female
	337	147	190
Northwest Students	305	Non-Students	32

*Numbers as of April 3, 2004

Music department plans spring concerts

By LACEY BAGLEY
MISSOURIAN REPORTER

As the end of the semester approaches the Northwest music department will up the pace, hosting three concerts in the next two weeks.

In the wake of Monday's performance by visiting Heartland Men's Choir, the Jazz Ensemble Concert, a graduate recital, Tower Choir and University Chorale Concert, Northwest Celebration Spring Show, the Wind Symphony, Symphonic Band and Alumni Band Concert and student recitals will be performed.

"Musical activities occur weekly and monthly," said Stephen Town, professor of music. "Concerts fall at the end of the term because they are life finals for these students."

Town directs Tower Choir, one of Northwest's voice ensembles. There are 48 students who meet three times a week to practice. They will perform eight pieces at 3 p.m. on Sunday in Mary Linn Auditorium.

Also performing Sunday will be University Chorale directed by Brian Lanier, assistant professor of music.

Chorale is also taken for class credit but there are no auditions. It is open to any student who would like to be a part of the choir. Nic Vasquez, music department graduate assistant, will be directing one performance Sunday evening entitled "Let the Earth Resound."

"We have a lot of different variety types and a great director," Vasquez said. "We are all there for the same goal: to make great music."

Vasquez and Megan Allbaugh will be performing Friday in the first Northwest graduate recital. They will sing opera and musical theater, and they will conclude with the duet "Almost Like Being in Love."

Unlike student recitals, the graduate students will not be graded on their performances.

William Richardson, assistant professor of music, will direct 17 musicians in two jazz ensembles tonight. The concert celebrates Jazz Appreciation month. A few pieces to be performed tonight will be "Take the A Train," "Cabeza de Carne" and "Kids are Pretty People."

"Jazz is America's music," Richardson said. "It is the only truly American art form."



PHOTO BY MIKE DYE/CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER
Singers with the Heartland Men's Chorus get down in drag at their show Monday night. The group originates in Kansas City, Mo.

University events

Thurs. 15	■ Jazz Ensemble Concert, 8 p.m. Mary Linn Auditorium
Fri. 16	■ ABC Car Wash, 3:30 p.m.
Sat. 17	■ Admissions Spring Visit Day, 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
Sun. 18	■ Tower Choir/University Chorale Concert, 3 p.m. Mary Linn Auditorium
Mon. 19	■ IM co-rec H2O basketball begins, 8 p.m.
Tues. 20	■ Transfer and Returning Student orientation/preregistration
Wed. 21	■ Speech Contest, 7 p.m. Ballroom

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We couldn't do it without you!!!

-Dean L. Hubbard, President



PHOTO BY LAURA CADY/CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER

Maryville High School Junior Sarah Dettmer rehearses her role as Dolly Gallagher Levi in MHS production of "Hello Dolly." The play opens tomorrow at 7:30 p.m. with repeat performances Saturday at 7:30 and Sunday at 2 p.m. in the MHS gymnasium.

'Hello Dolly' opens this weekend

By JARED LITTLEJOHN
MISSOURIAN REPORTER

It's that time of year for Maryville High School students to mount the stage and break a leg.

MHS will present its spring musical, "Hello Dolly," April 16-18.

This year's spring play is directed by choir teacher Marilyn Rhea and speech/debate teacher Stephen Kibler. "Organized chaos is the best way to describe it, but that's why they call it rehearsal," said Rhea. "It's really an all-school musical because we have so many people involved."

A total of 61 students and faculty

members are participating in the musical directly and indirectly. In addition to that, the musical involves a Northwest choreographer, sound technician and trombonist.

"Hello Dolly" is the story of an impetuous but lonesome matchmaker and her unknowing admirer, Horace Vandergelder. The plot thickens when love stories entwine and ignite.

Choosing each year's spring play is no simple process, Rhea said.

"You really have to look at your cast," she said. "With the cast we have we could choose different plays and cast four or five different ways and still be successful."

Rhea said casting began the first

week of February and due to the immense amount of talent, the decision-making process was difficult.

The comedy stars lead actress junior Sarah Dettmer as Mrs. Dolly Gallagher Levi.

"We're a little under-prepared but (the play) is different than other plays we've done before," Dettmer said.

"Hello Dolly" will open at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday night at MHS gymnasium. An additional performance will take place at 2 p.m. Sunday. The admission fee for children 12 and under is \$2, adults are \$5. Advance tickets are available at Hy-Vee.

City Council contracts developer to plan downtown revitalization

Officials discuss hiking trail's progress, appoint Thompson as new mayor

By AARON BAILEY
COMMUNITY NEWS EDITOR

The Maryville City Council officially contracted Snyder and Associates Monday to develop a plan for downtown revitalization.

Amid the departure of Councilman Brian Twaddle and the official start to newly-elected Chad Jackson's three-year term, the council adopted an ordinance to pay Snyder and Associates \$18,000

to develop a revitalization plan.

The city can terminate the contract at any point and will not incur the total cost of the contract. With \$8,000 of the money secured, the council is waiting to hear from possible donations from Nodaway County as well as Northwest Missouri State University.

During the meeting, former Mayor Pro-Tem Michael Thompson was once again appointed as mayor while former Mayor Ron Moss took Thompson's newly vacated position as mayor pro-tem.

Maryville resident Richard Landes also voiced his concerns to the council over the hiking trail's progress. Councilman John Jasinski explained that the construction has been stalled due to the need for the Missouri Department of

Transportation to approve of the project before construction can begin. Public Works Director Greg Decker hopes to begin the project within four to six weeks and to have the first phase completed by midsummer.

The council also unanimously rejected a special use permit to Maryville resident Sarah Clark, who did not attend the meeting, for a bed and breakfast located on 621 Market Street after four residents voiced descent over the parking problems.

The council also adopted an ordinance allowing developers to use asphalt to construct city streets. Prior to this ordinance, developers were restricted to concrete only. Both Thompson and Moss voted no on the measure.

Economic developer will be announced later this month

By STEPHANIE STANGL
CHIEF REPORTER

The search is finally over.

After nearly four months, Nodaway County Economic Development has found and will soon release the name of the county's new economic developer.

According to Darren Farnan, president of NCED, this is not the first time that the county has filled the position.

"Until a few months ago, Tom Bliss was our part-time economic developer," Farnan said. "Lisa Macali has been doing a great job filling in for the position since Bliss left, but we now feel it's come to the point where we need someone to fill the position full time."

A subcommittee comprised of four NCED employees completed the hiring process. There were two applicants

for the job and the committee voted and unanimously agreed on the chosen applicant.

The developer is another piece of the puzzle to improve the overall economic atmosphere of the city.

"We want this individual to help attract and retain business to Nodaway County," Farnan said. "It's a fairly intense job with a wide variety of sectors. The person has to be a coordinator and work towards attaining a general consensus while working with a diverse board. Basically, we want someone to organize

and reduce the redundancy of efforts." According to Farnan, the developer's duties are not set in stone.

"His job description will most definitely change frequently," Farnan said. "In addition, this person will help define the roles of the Chamber of Commerce members and employees of the Nodaway County Economic Development."

"We want this individual to help attract and retain business to Nodaway County. It's a fairly intense job with a wide variety of sectors."

DARREN FARNAN
PRESIDENT OF NODAWAY COUNTY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Farnan did comment that NCED hopes to have a formal document signed within 30 days to permanently hire the applicant.

Student Publications would like to thank all the hard-working student employees

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Congratulations to Lacie Henke, our 2004 St. Patrick's Day Queen, and for her hard work down in the basement!

Local swimmer sets sights on Sydney

Maryville sixth-grader will compete in Australia's 'mini-Olympics' this summer

By JESSICA SWARTZ
MISSOURIAN REPORTER

It's been described as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. For Michael Marlow, his upcoming experience as a People to People Ambassador is just that.

The 14-day trip will give the Maryville Middle School sixth-grader an opportunity to experience swimming in the Olympic pool in Sydney, Australia and the culture of the nation.

During his trip, Michael will train in New Zealand and compete in Australia. The competition, which involves children from all over the U.S. and Australia, is described as the "mini-Olympics."

"It's something he'll never forget," said Michael's mother Sandra. "It will make him a more well-rounded person."

Surprise and happiness were the responses of the Marlow family when they heard the news of his nomination as a potential ambassador. Al-



Twelve-year-old Michael Marlow has competed in swimming for half of his life and has been selected as a People to People Ambassador to compete in Australia. Michael's family is planning several fund-raisers to help pay for his trip. Donations can be sent to Bank Midwest at 402 Main Street under Michael S. Marlow's People to People account.

though they have no idea who nominated Michael, they couldn't have been happier until Feb. 2 when they received word that he had been chosen out of hundreds to represent the

United States.

"I was really excited when I heard that I had gotten nominated," Michael said. "It's my first chance to go overseas."

Michael's chosen sport for the competition is swimming.

"It's hard work," said the excited sixth-grader. "But it's definitely worth it if I get to go on this

trip."

Hard work has become the norm for this 12-year-old. He's been involved in swimming for the past eight years and competing for the past six years. He currently spends one hour a day, four days a week practicing and training. During the summer his training schedule increases to five days a week with regional matches in Nebraska, Iowa and Kansas.

"When we first began lessons, he was terrified of water," Sandra recalls, laughing. "I had some of the older boys take him to the deep end and toss him in. He quickly got the hang of it."

Michael obviously rose to the challenge and today considers swimming a major part of his life. His favorite swimmer is Australian Gold Medalist Ian Thorpe.

"I get to meet him on this trip," Michael said. "I'm really excited about that."

And when he returns, Michael plans to keep on swimming through high school.

Michael's family is planning several fund-raisers to pay for the trip. They will be at Hy-Vee April 23-24 selling strawberry pies. Other fund-raiser ideas are still up in the air.

"We'd appreciate any help that we could get," Sandra said. "We're going to make this happen."

Donations can be sent to Bank Midwest on 402 Main Street under Michael S. Marlow's People to People Account.

Community events

Thurs. 15	■ Parkinson's Support Group, 6:30 p.m., First Christian Church
Fri. 16	■ Men's Prayer Breakfast, 7 a.m., Hy-Vee
Sat. 17	■ International Holocaust Remembrance Day
Sun. 18	■ Overeaters Anonymous, 9 a.m., St. Francis Hospitality Room
Mon. 19	■ Preschool Registration Begins, 8 a.m.-3 p.m., Eugene Field Elementary School
Tues. 20	■ Cancer Support Group, 6-7:30 p.m., Laura Street Baptist Church
Wed. 21	■ The Seekers, 7 p.m., St. Paul's

Teacher pleads not guilty to statutory rape charges

Former Maryville High School teacher Vicki Auxier pleaded not guilty in Nodaway County Circuit Court Monday to charges alleging inappropriate contact with a student.

Auxier is charged with statutory rape in the second degree, a class C felony, alleging that she engaged in sexual intercourse with a male student, then 16.

A pretrial hearing will take place at 1 p.m. June 7 before Judge Roger Prokes in Nodaway County Circuit Court.

Auxier's attorney, Bob Sundell, requested a change of venue this week.

Aquila to raise electricity rates next week

By JARED HOFFMANN
MISSOURIAN REPORTER

Aquila customers may soon need to dig a little deeper in their pockets—but not much deeper.

While the debate continues over gas prices, Aquila received approval from the Missouri Public Service Commission yesterday for a 6.4 percent increase in electricity rates. The increased rate will become effective April 22 for residential customers throughout the region and will remain in effect for at least the next two years.

The approved rate increase for Missouri will total \$37.5 million. According to company spokesman George Minter, there are two key reasons for this increase. One is covering the cost of system improvements. The other is to cover the cost of natural gas, which produces the electricity received by customers.

"It basically allows the company to recover the cost for natural gas," Minter said. "The cost of fuels such as coal and oil used to generate electricity are high and sometimes very volatile."

Minter said that the interim energy charge,

which accounts for 2.72 percent of the 6.4 percent rate increase, could be refunded after two years if the company's total gas costs are exceeded during that time.

Aquila also filed a purchased gas adjustment (PGA) on April 1 to the MPSC that calls for a six percent increase in gas rates. The initial date of implementation for the gas increase was tomorrow but that date could possibly be changed, said Kevin Kelly of the MPSC.

According to Minter, PGAs are filed in order to balance supplier gas costs with prices charged to customers.

"We basically calculate on what we think the gas cost will be," Minter said. "It will either increase or decrease at that point."

Judy Ness, Aquila's Senior manager of External Affairs, said that two requests are filed every year in order to keep tabs on fluctuating gas prices.

"The gas prices are volatile," Ness said. "This just gives us a way to keep pretty close in line with what those gas prices are."

According to Ness, one PGA is filed in

the summer and another in the winter, which allows the company to achieve the lowest possible prices for gas.

"It covers the cost of the gas that we purchase," Ness said. "Whatever our supplier charges us for that gas, we pass on to our customers."

Ness said that even though gas prices are constantly fluctuating, the company is determined to do their best for the customers.

"We try very hard to get the lowest price for our gas," Ness said. "There's no profit for us in that. We just want to get the lowest price for our customers and be able to adjust in a timely manner."

Electricity rate increases will affect all of Aquila's 282,000 Missouri electricity customers, but possible gas rate increases will only affect specific portions of the company's 55,000 gas customers including Maryville, Barnard, Bigelow, Bolckow, Craig, Fairfax, Forest City, Graham, Maitland, Mound City, Oregon, Ravenwood, Rockport, Skidmore and Tarkio.

A first-hand lesson in government

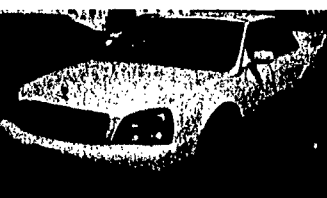


Rep. Brad Lager explains how the U.S. government works in a question and answer session with Horace Mann fourth-graders Monday. The students then separated into groups representing the House of Representatives and the Senate to pass a bill.

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2004 Chevy Classic	10k	Gold	\$12,995.00
2004 Pontiac Sunfire	12k	Red	\$11,995.00
2003 Cadillac Deville	19k	White	\$28,995.00
2003 Chevy Silverado 4x4 X-cab	30k	Green	\$23,995.00
2003 Buick Lesabre	19k	White	\$16,995.00
2003 Buick Lesabre	16k	White	\$16,995.00
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Our View

A better way out

After suicide has claimed the lives of two Northwest students and one recent alumnus, outlets for help must be stressed

What is happening?

The question resonated throughout the student body as the news of another suicide spread through campus.

The inquiry needs to be answered. Two students, a recent alumnus and at least two Maryville residents have committed suicide in the last four months. This is an alarming number, especially when suicide is quickly becoming one of the leading causes of death among college students.

Why do college students commit suicide?

According to the National Mental Health Association, reasons can include stress, depression, interpersonal losses and high levels of anger or anxiety. Every situation is different.

According to Liz Wood of the Northwest Counseling Center, suicide victims often feel like there is no way out of their present situation. In a January interview, Wood said suicide can be "contagious." When an individual is successful in a suicide attempt, it may give others considering suicide the confidence to go through with the act.

Students and administration alike need to intervene before the situation becomes more acute. We cannot lose another life; students considering suicide need to be aware of the alternatives.

There are a number of ways Northwest can help end the epidemic. An campus-wide educational seminar regarding suicide, the warning signs and the avenues available for help would be extremely beneficial. Northwest has offered counseling to individuals and campus groups, but creating an open dialogue for the students may promote healing and offer some answers to the many questions and rumors circulating throughout the campus.

A 24-hour suicide hotline, which is separate from Campus Safety, might encourage students who need assistance to pick up the phone. Currently, anyone who needs help can call Campus Safety and an officer will contact an on-call counselor. Even this fact needs to be more publicized. Many people don't know that they can get help 24 hours a day.

In addition, suicide needs to be directly discussed in freshman seminar classes. According to a representative from the freshman seminar office, themes like stress and depression are taught but there is no focus on suicide. It seems logical to incorporate education about the second-leading cause of death among college students in curriculum about college life.

Lastly, the University should look into membership with the Jed Foundation. Phillip and Donna Satow founded the Jed Foundation in 2000 after the suicide of their college-aged son, Jed. The organization currently works with 100 universities and one million college students, with the goal of suicide education and prevention.

One of the hallmarks of the organization is the pilot Suicide Prevention Program. The pilot program involves the implementation of a suicide prevention program on four college campuses. Results of the study will help social scientists determine what type of education will actually help.

In addition, the Jed Foundation offers a unique set of tools, including a freshman questionnaire that can aid campuses in gaining a better grasp of the emotional profile of the campus community as well as identifying vulnerable students.

Regardless of the methods Northwest chooses to embrace, the recent suicides cannot be ignored. Education is the key to preventing this kind of tragedy. We at *The Missourian* hope that students thinking of suicide will get help and that the assistance offered to them will be enough to save their life. We do not want to write another story about a life ended too soon.



Friend's early goodbye teaches sad lesson

After finishing classes last Friday, I began mentally preparing my "to do" list for this week. Case studies, an accounting test, cleaning the bathroom and starting to study for finals popped into my head as priorities. Saturday night that all changed.

After one phone call, the list of events switched to shopping for sympathy cards, spending hours wondering why, consoling and attending the funeral of a friend.

Joe Trompeter and I weren't best buddies, but to me and many others at Northwest, he was a great friend and truly held a special place in my heart. My favorite memory of him was when he was part of my 21st birthday posse, bought my first legal shot—plus a few more after that—and tucked me in tightly at the end of the evening. There were always witty comebacks for every sarcastic comment, late nights that others would classify as early mornings and hours of watching Tromp dance in his own special way.

He definitely wasn't your average Joe. Extraordinary Joe is more like it.

Tromp exuded a unique, warm aura of friendliness and his presence was certainly noticed whenever he entered a room. He made an impact on people after just meeting them once, as is shown by the abundance of people affected by

My View
JESSICA SCHEULER
ADVERTISING
DESIGN DIRECTOR

his passing. I don't think I ever saw the guy not having fun—he could even turn taking out the trash into a good time. He would take an awkward situation and make those around him feel at ease. Somehow, that thousand-watt grin could make any predicament better and leave you with a smile as well.

Actually, in every flashback I've had this week, he's smiling.

If only his problem-solving smile could still be here to heal the hurt faced by so many today. Looking in the eyes of his Alpha Kappa Lambda brothers and other close friends, I see a conglomerate of extreme pain, confusion and utter shock like I never have before. I want to take these emotions, bottle them up and send it directly to anyone even contemplating suicide.

The overflow of tragedies in Maryville this year needs to stop with this. It often seems to be someone you don't know or a friend of a friend and it will never happen to you. Then, out of nowhere, it strikes with someone special to you.

At Joe's memorial service Sunday, Bryan VanOsdale director of Greek Life and Campus Activities, commented on how from the first day he met Joe, he felt the world needed more people like him. One of the best ways we can remember and honor Joe's life is emulating the qualities we loved so much about him.

Smile twice as much as usual and mean it.

Meet new people and form new friendships at every opportunity.

Be happy and have fun with everything you do, no matter what it is.

But most of all care about people, and make everyone feel special and unique.

Tromp held an uncanny skill of making everyone feel important. In this time of sadness, turn to your friends and let them know just how much they mean to you. If you or anyone you know is contemplating suicide or troubled by Joe's passing, please contact the Counseling Center at 562-1220. We wish Joe would have. It's too early for him to be our angel.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Gay marriage advocacy contains crucial misstatement

Dawn Frost's extremely thoughtful, intelligent letter about Gay Marriage in the April 8 *Northwest Missourian* contains one important misstatement. The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution states that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof..." It nowhere states, as Ms.

Frost asserts, that "there will be a separation of church and state." Maybe that's the best way to interpret the Establishment Clause; and probably it's the best way to ensure religious freedom; but it's not what the document actually says.

I should add that as a political science instructor, having two high-quality

letters like Ms. Frost's and Tommy Bailey's on the same *Missourian* editorial page is inspiring. (Now, if we can get a few of them to vote.)

DAN SMITH
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
POLITICAL SCIENCE

Failure of Polk Township proposition a travesty

I am a rural person by nature, having been born and raised in a rural community. I believe rural roads should be rocked and bridges maintained.

But for the past 34 years I have been a resident of the "city" of Maryville and have paid more than \$100 a year to Polk Township for the "roads and bridges." I am certain that there are many of you who have paid the same or more for more years than I.

Until three years ago, no township money was spent in conjunction with the city on roads that affect the welfare of both taxed entities. My first question for the residents of Maryville

within Polk Township is this: What have you or the city of Maryville gotten from your money? My second question is for those who voted against the recent proposal (or those who were too apathetic and did not vote): Why, for a small financial investment, would you vote against a cooperative effort on the part of the city, township and county to do something that directly affects the traffic flow in the city of Maryville in a positive manner?

My two greatest disappointments are 1) That a small number of Maryville residents chose to vote, and 2) That we have discredited our ca-

pable elected Polk Township representatives who had studied and recommended the proposal. They are serving us unselfishly for the good of the Polk Township community.

The reason I did not submit this letter before the election was because I thought the proposal would pass without a hitch. I sincerely hope we get a second chance. Thanks to all the elected officials who took the time to study the issues and prepare the excellent proposal on our behalf. Some of us appreciate your dedication.

BOB BOHLKEN
MARYVILLE

YOUR VIEW

What is your dream summer internship?



"I would want to work at a radio station."

Josh Odson
Broadcasting



"I want to work with Peter Jackson and learn how to be grungy and cool at the same time."

Tim Royers
Undecided



"To work in the inner Kansas City Schools."

Shelly Baur
Elementary Education



"I would like to be a forensic psychologist."

Ashley Stanard
Psychology



"I would like to do my internship at Radio City Music Hall."

Liz Holmes
Business

The Northwest Missourian is an independent learning environment providing the best source of information and advertising for our community.

Questions? Comments about *The Northwest Missourian*? Story idea? We would like to hear from you. If you do not find the person you need on the right, please contact Abby Simons at 660-562-1224, by fax at 660-562-1521, by e-mail at northwestmissourian@hotmail.com or write us at 800 University Drive, Wells Hall 6, Maryville, MO 64468.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We want to hear your views on this issue and others. Call *The Missourian* Back Talk line at 562-1980. E-mail your letter to the editor to northwestmissourian@hotmail.com or send it by mail to: *The Northwest Missourian*, Wells Hall 6, 800 University Drive, Maryville, MO 64468. Letters are limited to 250 words due to space constraints. All letters must be signed; students should include their major. *The Missourian* reserves the right to edit all letters.

Spring has arrived



PHOTO BY NIKI CARDER/CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER

Tara Mitchell and Tiffany Anderson study near Colden Pond on Wednesday afternoon. Many students made it outside to enjoy the warm weather this week. Temperatures are expected to reach 80 degrees over the weekend.

CONTINUED from 1A

President Hubbard says it's now or never for merger

the stance Hubbard and Floyd are taking.

"That is not a strategy I would use," Lager said. "By default, (legislators) become cautious. They might say, 'If it isn't good enough to pass next year, then what makes you think it's good enough to pass this year.' Members see that as a threat, and if that continues to be the case, I know the merger will not happen this session."

And while the atmosphere may not be ripe for a merger this session, Lager said the probability of passing the merger next session would be greater.

Yet, according to Hubbard, enough is enough.

"(Floyd and I) have discussed it and we've decided it's time to move on," he said.

Hubbard said the timing of the announcement has no correlation with the timing of the legislative session in which only two weeks remain.

"I'm not sure there is anything more we can do," Hubbard said in regards to student feedback. "There's a massive amount of information on our Web site, we've had 10 town hall

meetings and anyone who has asked a question, I've answered it."

However, according to Eric Willis, governmental affairs chair of Student Senate, students are not in support of the merger. Nearly 70 percent of students were against the merger, according to the results of a survey released last week.

Willis blames the results on the way the administration handled the process.

"I think the merger in the long term is good, but there are too many things (the administration) does not have figured out," Willis said. "I think students voted against the merger not because they don't think it is a good thing, but because of the way the administration went behind the curtains. That's more of the problem than the merger itself."

While students voted against the merger, Faculty Senate voted 19-1 in favor at its meeting last week.

The legislative session does not end until May 14. But according to Richard Fulton, associate professor of political science, there is not enough time for the merger.

"It's getting very late and a lot of the time will have to be spent on the budget," Fulton said. "I think the legislators are disgusted with higher education because (colleges and universities) all want name changes."

Fulton, like Lager, believes the scenario Hubbard and Floyd are giving legislators will not be successful.

"Unless they throw all the name changes together, the merger won't happen. They won't like the scenario of, 'It's now or never,' because they'll say, 'Okay, it's never.'"

Regardless of what happens in the next month, Hubbard acknowledges the faculty's support. He said Northwest will still be in good shape without the merger being passed.

"What I hear from students is, 'We like it the way it is,'" Hubbard said. "There's a compliment embedded in there instead of a lot of clamoring."

Lager will open discussion on the House of Representatives floor April 21. The result of the student vote is slated to be discussed.

Log on to missourianonline.com for more information.

CONTINUED from 1A

Community, University grieve over Northwest graduate's weekend suicide

stress relief programs.

"Anytime you have tragedies like these, you have an opportunity to re-look at what you're doing, to expand programming and evaluate what you're doing," said Kent Porterfield, vice president of Student Affairs. "We're looking to do that."

Perhaps intervention, Roumas said, may not only have saved his best friend, but also the immense sadness of so many people affected by Trompeter.

"I think if he could do it over again, he would've taken a different route," Roumas said. "If he

would have thought about the hundreds of people he's come in contact with who have been affected by him, I don't think I'd be doing this interview."

Donations in memory of Joe Trompeter can be made to:

- Atchison Catholic Elementary System
- Mour Hill Mount Academy
- Wagon Wheel Memorial Campership Fund (Boy Scouts)
- Becker-Dyer-Stanton Funeral Home, Inc.
- 800 Kansas Ave.
- Atchison, KS 66002

CONTINUED from 1A

Hubbard celebrates 20 years of being an integral part of Northwest's success

While on the surface, it may appear as if everything was smooth sailing.

In 1987 that was not the case. Hubbard experienced continuing pressure from Aerie and received a "no confidence" vote from the faculty.

"Those were real struggles," Hubbard said in regards to the pressure from Aerie.

At the time of the "no confidence" vote, people close to the situation saw a period of change.

"It takes a while for people to trust you, and sometimes that period of adjustment has bumps along the way when change feels too fast," said Ray Courter, vice president of Finance.

The three-year period of adjustment proved to be too much for some faculty,

Courter acknowledged.

"He may have had more enthusiasm than people prepared for," he said. "There was an emotional period where people had to agree to apply each other's strengths."

That began to come together when the Electronic Campus was turned on.

Once it began taking off in the fall of '87 and winter of '88, Hubbard realized it was here to stay.

"(The Electronic Campus) created something to build on," he said. "If we had gone on like other universities with different, separate systems, there (would not have been) compatibility. The conditions were right."

Awards for quality also were a common trend, which was punctuated this

year when Northwest was a finalist for the national Baldrige Award.

"The Electronic Campus fits into the Culture of Quality Awards, not the other way around," Hubbard said. "We publicized our first Culture of Quality plan, and enrollment started shooting up."

Through the triumphs and turbulent times, one word has been used by legislators across the state: efficiency. That's something Courter is proud of.

"We had a budget running in the red (when Hubbard came to Northwest). Over time, through steady leadership and improvements we've gone from out of the hole to creating a workable budget."

For example, Northwest went from \$250,000 in the hole in 1987 to having

a budget of nearly \$1 million in 1991.

That efficiency has been noticed by some of his toughest critics.

"He's been very good for the University through capital improvements, the Electronic Campus and alternate fuels," said Richard Fulton, associate professor of political science. "I've disagreed with him on a lot of different things, but he's been a very good president."

And according to Hubbard, he won't stop improving Northwest anytime soon.

"As long as I'm in charge, we'll continue to press the envelope and see where the forefront is," he said. "Whatever it is, we'll try and achieve it."

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THROUGH THE WOODS

THE SEARCH FOR DELECTABLE MOREL MUSHROOMS IS ON

BY STEPHANIE STANGI
CHIEF REPORTER

Bag in hand, you forge through the forest, getting scraped by hidden thorns and devoured by ravenous insects. Your clothes cling with perspiration, but it all seems worth it when you spot your prize: a mouth-watering patch of morel mushrooms.

With the morel season just around the corner, it comes as no surprise that "shroomers" everywhere are gearing up to take part in this competitive and often-addicting pastime.

Kathy and Barry Eichler, a Maryville couple who hunts morels whenever the chance arises, keeps a journal of the morels that they find. Though this year is a little drier than last, and this season may not start as soon, they found their first batch of morels last year on April 21.

Morels have a sponge-like appearance and come in several different colors including gray, black, yellow and red. The yellow morels are the most sought after because they tend to be the fleshiest, while the red variety tends to indicate "false" morels, which are poisonous.

"Morels have sort of a nutty taste," Barry said. "It's a much more intense and smooth of a flavor than, say, the portobello or the button mushroom."

Barry views mushroom hunting as a rite of spring and said that when it comes to the hunt, timing is everything.

The best time to go is when it has been warm for a while and then it rains, Barry said. "But we usually get too eager and end up going out too early."

Although he doesn't want to give away his favorite hunting spot, Barry has some fundamental advice for first timers.

"Just look for a wooded area or somewhere near water," Barry said. "While searching, they're easy to miss, so look carefully to ensure that you don't step on them."

Besides the bag to carry the morels in, Barry suggests bringing

a little knife. By cutting the morels at the base, they become easier to harvest, and a "shroomer" can avoid getting excess dirt into their bag.

Preparing to cook and enjoy morels requires a thorough soaking in either plain or salted water from a few hours to overnight. Then, Kathy suggests taking a little brush and cleaning out the crevices to ensure that the mushrooms are free of bugs and dirt.

Next, Kathy cuts them down the middle and fries them in butter while others opt to dip the morels in egg and roll them in either flour or bread and cracker crumbs in addition to sautéing them. The Eichlers also enjoy the treat of putting them on pizza or in omelets.

Kathy started hunting mushrooms with her dad when she was 12. Shortly after, she met Barry at college and he began accompanying her to her dad's cabin to share in the hunt. When the season is over in Missouri, they continue hunting by venturing up to the cabin to hunt around Memorial Day.

Last year, while sitting at my dad's cabin, Kathy said with a smile, "I was pretty high in the air when I looked down and saw six good-sized yellow morels. I got so excited that I flew off the swing."

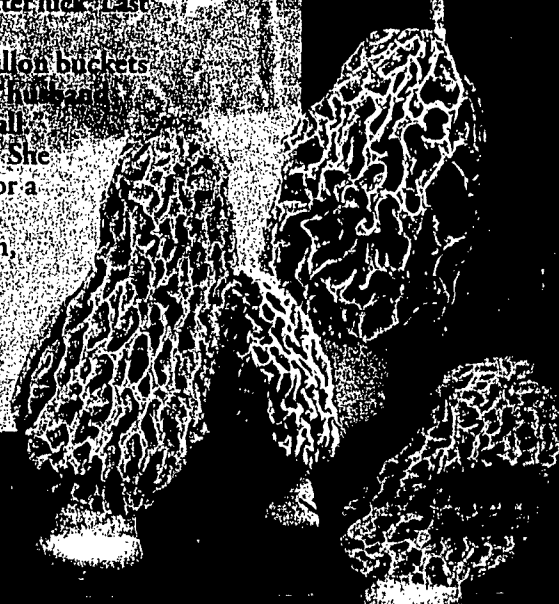
The Eichlers said the most mushrooms they found while on the prowl was about 75 morels. The biggest find measured five to six inches in height.

Maryville resident Kathy Hainline has had even better luck. Last year, in particular, Hainline had a remarkable find.

"That year, I can even remember how many five-gallon buckets we found," Hainline said. "The biggest morel my husband and I found had to have been about ten or eleven inches tall."

Hainline has also been an avid "shroomer" for years. She said the hobby gives her a chance to relax and escape for a while.

"Since I live in town, mushroom hunting is a fun, relaxing opportunity to get away," Hainline said.



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View from above

Bart Tatum talks about moving to the booth, coaching quarterbacks and his plans for the offense

By BILL KNUST
SENIOR REPORTER

New offensive coordinator Bart Tatum stands all of 5 feet, 10 inches, and even that may be pushing it. But he commands the respect of a Donald Trump bodyguard.

Respect he is given by every player on the team. Offensive linemen used to take verbal lashings from him every game, not that most of them weren't deserved. Although he may raise his voice to get his message across, he is effective at communicating.

For more than a decade Tatum served as the on field voice for former offensive coordinator Jim Svoboda. When Svoboda noticed a tendency in the defensive line, Tatum would relay it to his offensive linemen. When a running back was missing a hole or a block, Tatum was on the field to correct it.

Now he will be in the coaches' booth calling plays while other coaches will assume his voice. It is something that you just don't get used to overnight. It is change, and change is scary.

"It is a concern, buddy," Tatum said laughing in his Texas drawl. "Because I feel one of my strengths is face-to-face interacting with players on the field. When you are in the box you are the brains of the operation, the other coaches are your voice.

I will be leaning on (receivers coach) Scott Courter and (offensive line coach) Adam Dorrell and whoever else is down on the field."

A Tough Transition

Svoboda, who used to occupy the booth, left for the quarterback's coach position at the University of California-Los Angeles in January.

Since then, Tatum has picked his friend's brain on coordinating and quarterback fundamentals for only a couple of minutes, even though the two talk daily. Instead, he relies on the quarterback manual Svoboda left and a manual he received when he visited the University of Tulsa this winter.

Those materials have made the move from offensive line coach to quarterback's coach as smooth as possible for a man who has only dabbled in the subject.

"The transition from offensive line coach to quarterback coach has been more difficult because this is my first time coaching the position," Tatum said. "So from a standpoint of coaching fundamentals of quarterback play, I am starting from scratch. It isn't something I've studied in great detail until two months ago. I had to cram a lot of learning into a short period of time and it was uncomfortable, but very productive. I feel I've made great progress."

Tatum has felt more than comfortable assuming the

Please see "Tatum" page 3B

Errors result in 2 crucial losses for 'Cats

By COLE YOUNG
SPORTS EDITOR

It's too bad the baseball team couldn't have quit after five innings on Wednesday.

The 'Cats, 25-15, dropped a pair of games, both times giving up a lead in the fifth inning.

In the first game of the afternoon Northwest gave up seven runs in the seventh, leading to a 14-7 loss.

Rockhurst also scored three runs in the sixth.

"We played very complacent," head coach Darin Loe said. "Hopefully today is a wakeup call for the team. We weren't sharp at all."

Things looked promising for the 'Cats, who jumped out to a 4-0 lead in the third inning.

Both squads tacked on a single run in the fourth inning before Rockhurst's offense came alive.

The Hawks scored three runs in both the fifth and sixth innings to lead 7-5 heading into the Bearcat's bottom half of the sixth.

Marcus West and David Dugan both scored runs in the sixth, tying the game.

In the seventh inning the Hawks hit a two-run shot to left field to score what would be the game winning runs.

The second half of the doubleheader wasn't much better for the Bearcats.

Northwest scored a run in the first inning on a sacrifice fly, but the 'Hawks tacked on four runs in the top of the second inning.

"We didn't show up to play at all," Loe said. "We didn't hit the ball like we did this weekend, our pitching wasn't there and neither was our defense. I think we took them a little lightly."

In the four-run inning, Northwest committed four errors.

"No question; our lack of focus had to do with all our errors," Loe said. "Maybe some of those had to do with bad hops the ball took but that's no excuse for all the errors."

The Bearcats got four runs of their own in the bottom half of the inning.

Over the weekend, the 'Cats' offense exploded scoring a total of 40 runs in the three-game sweep of Pittsburg State.

Left fielder Brad Schwarz connected for his sixth and seventh home runs of the season against the Gorillas.

Northwest is back in action this weekend when they travel to Missouri-Rolla to take on the Miners in what could be a crucial MIAA matchup.

Softball squad tosses shutout over nationally-ranked Hornets

Hainline delivers 4-hitter, Bearcats knock off No. 20 Emporia State

By JEROME BOETTCHER
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

The Lady Bearcats managed to salvage a win in their doubleheader Wednesday afternoon against Emporia State after blowing a two-run lead in the first game.

The women's softball team fell to Emporia State 8-4 in extra innings after being just one out away from picking up the victory. They had a 4-2 lead in the top of the seventh against No. 20 Emporia.

With a runner on second and two outs, Emporia managed to get a double and single to tie the game. Starting pitcher Shelly MacDonald had managed to get out of two jams

earlier on in the game including a situation when she had the bases loaded and managed to get out of it.

"Hindsight's always 20-20, then we took (MacDonald) out and then they hit (relief pitcher Talina) Canon," head softball coach Susan Anderson said. "So you never really know what to do and hindsight's always 20-20, but Shelly pitched a really good game."

Canon came in the top of the eighth after the Bearcats couldn't do anything offensively in the bottom of the seventh. She gave up four runs on three hits and one error. The loss was Canon's seventh on the year.

The Bearcats had led 4-2 after six innings. Megan Spring hit a home run in the second inning to tie the game at one and then she knocked in another run in

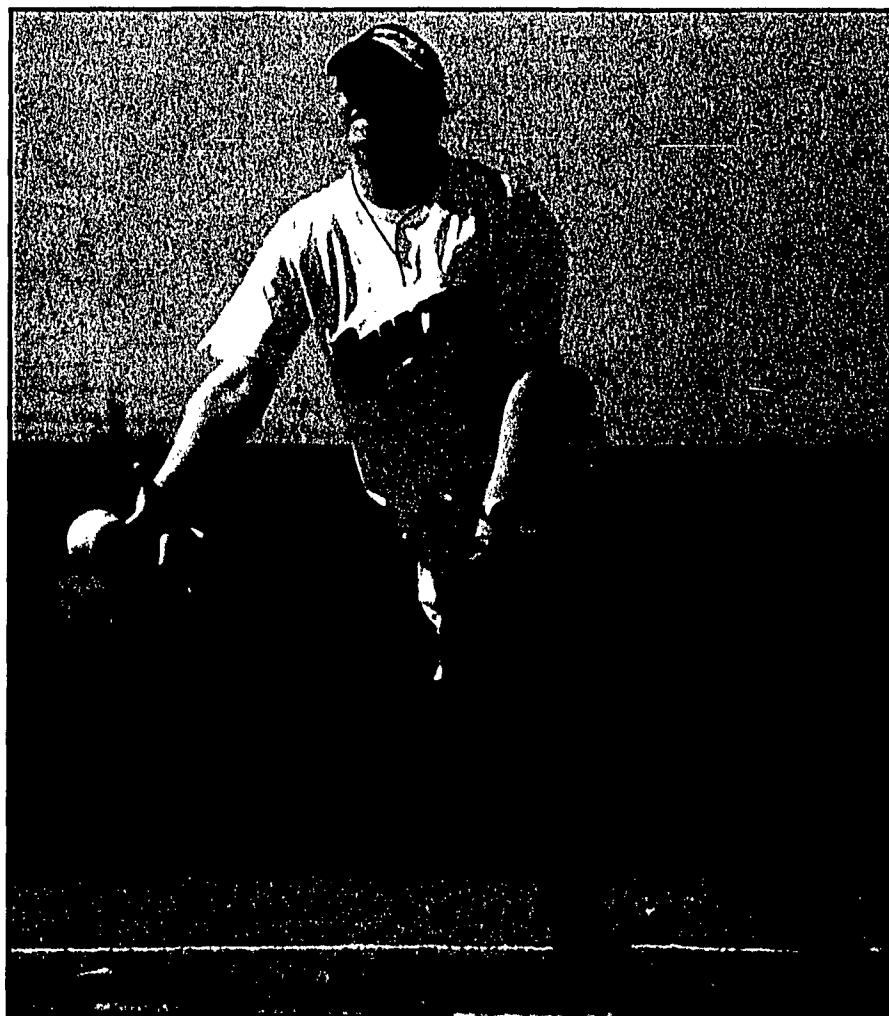
the fourth with a one-out double. Freshmen Kaytee Schulenberg added an insurance run in the sixth inning with a solo shot to center field to make it 4-2.

Despite the loss in the first game, the Bearcats managed to come out right away and score four quick runs in the first inning.

"I think we were pretty determined after that first game—we felt like that first game was ours, it should have been ours," Anderson said.

The Lady Bearcats scored all their runs while having two outs. Ashley Pride managed to reach first base on a fielder's choice and then moved to third on two wild pitches by starting pitcher Stacy Foltz. After Angie McCoy and Spring reached base on walks, Melissa Nimmo hit a single to knock in two runs. She was followed by singles

Please see "Softball" page 3B



Shelly MacDonald delivers a pitch in the first game of Wednesday's doubleheader. The Bearcats fell in extra innings to the No. 20 Emporia State Hornets. Northwest won the second game 4-0.

PHOTO BY NIKI CARMER/
CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER

Netters beat Truman State, prepare for Oklahoma squad

By JEROME BOETTCHER
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

The tennis teams continued to move in the right direction as they dominated their opponents last weekend.

"We got some conference wins (this weekend) and we're probably where we want to be," head coach Mark Rosewell said.

The men's team, which is ranked 38th in the nation, defeated Truman State 8-1 on Saturday. The day before they shutout both Winona State University (6-0) and the University of North Colorado (8-0).

Senior Lander Panera continued to do well as he won his fourth straight match. Panera and doubles partner Alen Horvat defeated Truman State 8-0 in their doubles' match. Panera is ranked 46th in the nation.

"I didn't expect that," said an

appreciative Panera. "I'm just doing my job and trying to win as many games as I can."

Rosewell thinks that part of the reason Panera is doing well is that he is more self-confident.

"He's got his confidence back," Rosewell said. "Confidence is a big thing in any sport."

On the women's side, the Lady Bearcats managed to pick up two wins over the weekend. They defeated Rockhurst 5-4 last Thursday.

Raven Herner and Sara Lipira won their doubles match in a tiebreaker after trailing 7-4 earlier on in the match. Lipira also came back in the third set of her singles match after trailing 5-2 to win the set and the match 7-5.

The team then beat Truman State 7-2 at home on Saturday. Rosa Tapia and Gena Lindsey won their sixth straight doubles' match as they shutout Truman State's Melissa

Dudak and Abigail Souders 8-0.

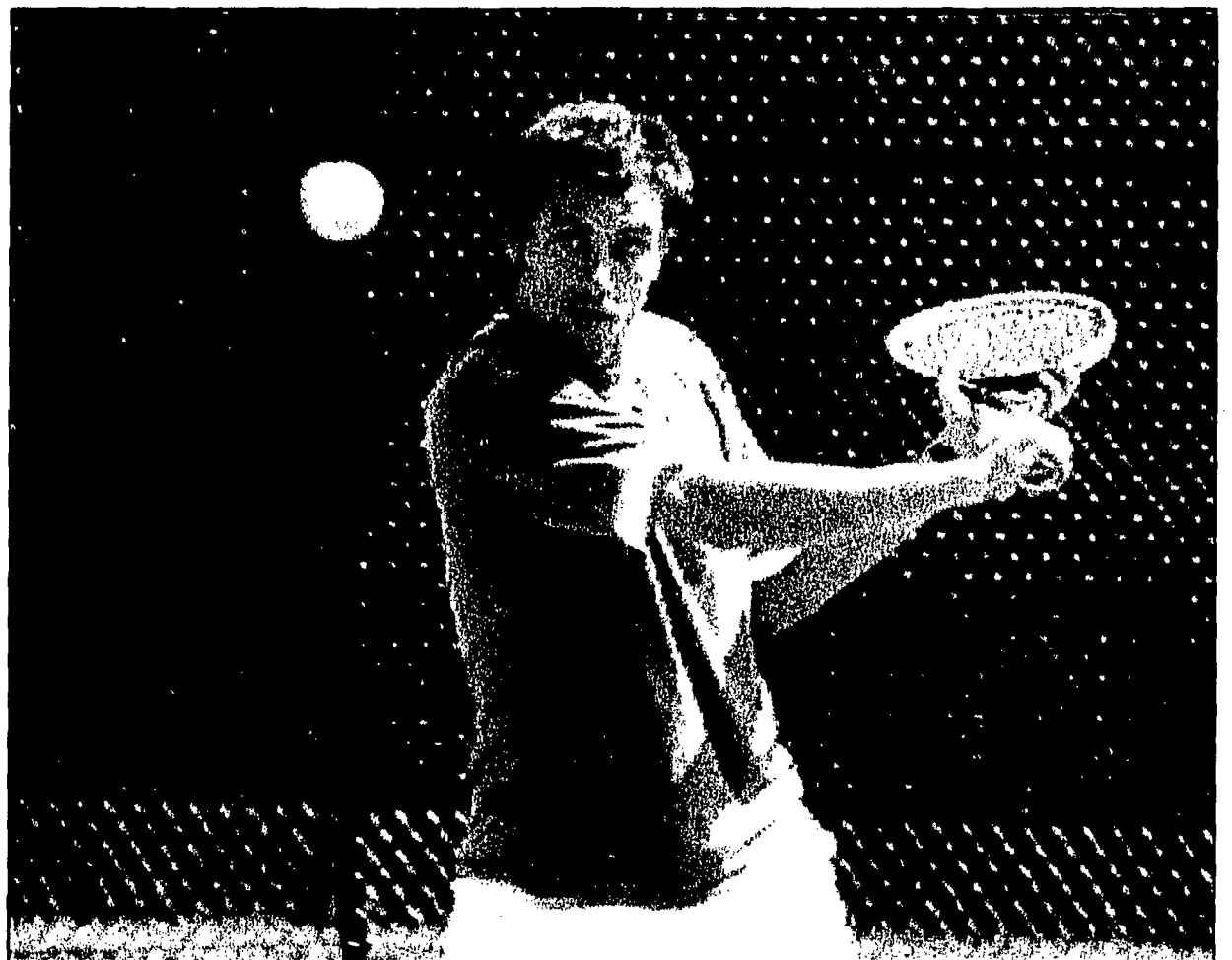
"(Lindsey has) had a great year for us in doubles and singles both. She's beat some excellent players," Rosewell said. "(Gena) and Rosa have had a great year of doubles. Rosa should be ranked in the top 50 (and) if she's not now, she will be by the end of the year."

The teams were supposed to host William Jewell College on Tuesday but the match was cancelled that morning. The women will still play William Jewell the week after the conference championships.

Both teams will now travel to Oklahoma to participate in the Central Oklahoma Tournament. Rosewell thinks the competition level will be high.

"If we can win three out of five matches, I think we're doing pretty well," he said.

Jerome Boettcher can be contacted at 562-1224 or jboettcher@missourianonline.com



Alen Horvat practices his backhand at Grube Tennis Courts on Tuesday. Horvat was named MIAA Tennis Player of the Week on March 11. On the year, Horvat is 13-3. The Bearcats travel to Oklahoma for five matches over the span of three days.

McKim leads Bearcats at rainy weekend meet, provisionally qualifies for nationals

By ANDY TIMKO
MISSOURIAN REPORTER

A cold, rainy day in Emporia, Kan. led to a ninth place finish for the men's track and field team last weekend.

"I don't think we competed very well as a team," head coach Richard Alsup said. "I think we let the weather mess with our focus."

Alsup admits that the weather was a huge factor at Emporia, but he also acknowledges that some athletes are still returning from injuries and the competition was stronger as well.

"Some of the athletes are still getting into shape and yes, the competition was strong," he said.

Despite the bad finish, there were a

few bright spots in last weekend's invite.

Dan McKim finished first in the hammer throw, second in shot put and fourth in the discus throw.

"This is great, it was just a blessing," McKim said. "I haven't been throwing well for the last couple of weeks. (The first place finish) was just mainly a big confidence boost."

Other standout athletes included Jamison Phillips, who finished second in the 10K run, Diezeas Calbert, who placed fourth in the triple jump and Eric Isley, who took seventh in the 800-meter run.

"I thought Eric ran pretty good in the 800," Alsup said. "They started about 16 to 18 people, which is ridiculous, and he

got stuck in the middle and couldn't get out."

The Bearcat women's team placed in eight events and finished 18th overall.

"I felt that with the competition we had at Emporia, that we did about as well as I expected we would do," head coach Vicki Wootton said.

Wootton feels that the opposition at the Emporia State D-II Challenge made the invite one of the most difficult competitions of the year.

"The D-II Challenge was one of the toughest meets," she said. "There were so many provisional qualifiers from all over the country, so it was a good tune-up."

Brandi Hollowell competed in the

heptathlon for the first time this season finishing 23rd out of a field of 38.

The 4x100 relay posted a strong showing finishing in fifth place with a time of 49.16 seconds.

The 'Cats are practicing and hoping for warm temperatures and sunny skies before their next competition this weekend.

"We're going to do a lot better," Alsup said. "And one of the reasons we're going to do a lot better is because all of a sudden we're going to have good weather."

Both teams will be back in action at the KU Relays in Lawrence, Kan., on Friday and at the Doane Relays in Crete, Neb., on Saturday.

EMPORIA STATE RESULTS

Men

110h - J. Terry, 6th, 14.64
400h - P. Paniccia, 16th, 57.34
800 - E. Isley, 7th, 1:55.84
1500 - D. Wilson, 12th, 4:11.37
5K - M. Pohren, 16th, 16:17.25
10K - J. Phillips, 2nd, 32:16.11
4x100 - 5th, 49.16
Decathlon - P. Sasser, 27th, 4398 pts.
TJ - D. Calbert, 4th, 45-11.75
SP - D. McKim, 2nd, 53-8.25
DT - D. McKim, 4th, 154-11
HT - D. McKim, 1st, 181-10

Women

200 - A. Samuel, 8th, 25.42
1500 - B. Lee, 12th, 5:05.37
3K Steeple - J. Toebben, 11th, 13:34.24
10K - J. Montesano, 8th, 42:08.51
4x100 - 5th, 49.16
Heptathlon - B. Honeywell, 23rd, 3693 pts.
TJ - G. Lacy, 12th, 35-5
SP - K. Scherer, 11th, 39-11.25

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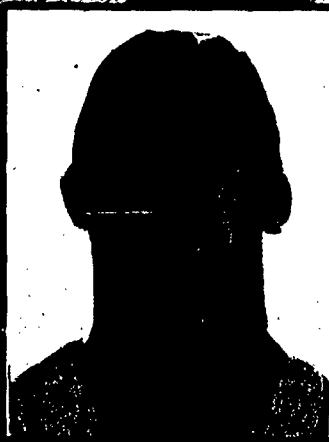
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Tatum shouldn't change much, team needs to aim for playoffs

Spring brings new life and two weeks of football to the Northwest campus.

"With new offensive coordinator Bart Tatum taking the reins of the offense, not much will change and as he says, 'Why should it?'"

He is right. When this offense is clicking, few defenses can stop it—let alone contain it.

But the past two out of three seasons it has been contained, running production has slipped and the Bearcats have lost some of their luster in the MIAA.

Yes, they went undefeated in the MIAA during the 2002 season, but the two sandwiching seasons have seen losses to Central Missouri State University and, gasp, Missouri Western State College.

What's wrong?

A lot of it has to do with the big daddies up front. You can only go as far as they take you on both sides of the ball. In 2001 the Bearcats had several losses where they blew a lead and last year

Ranting and Raving



**BILL
KNUST**
SENIOR
REPORTER

quarterback Josh Lamberson spent most of his time running for his life.

For this team to return to national prominence, as Tatum wants it, it has to start up front. The line has to pave ways for running backs and give Lamberson a chance to throw.

The more yards the running game racks up, the more dangerous Northwest's receivers become. It was tough to double cover Tony Miles and the other receivers when Derek Lane was running for

100 yards per game during the 1998 season.

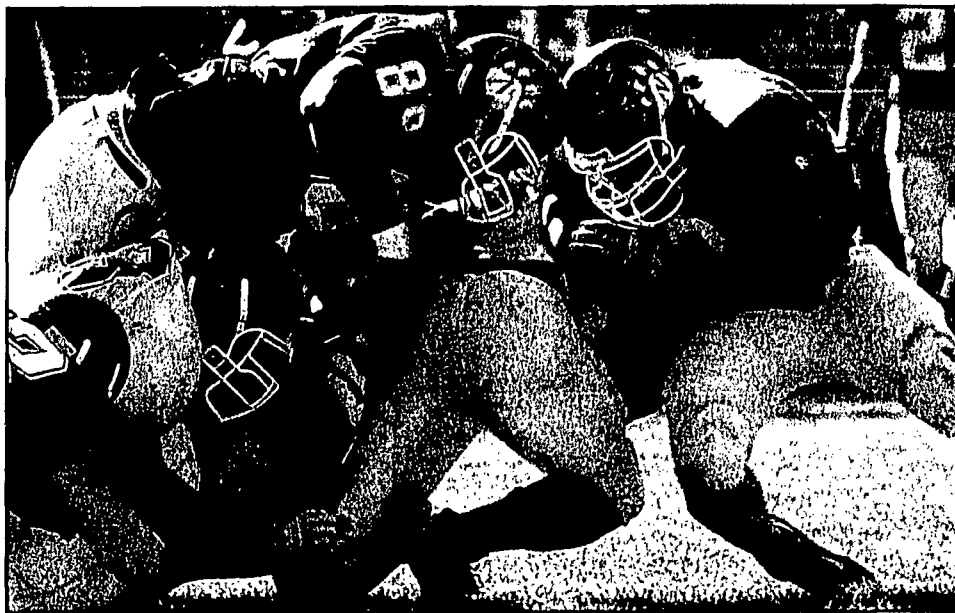
Secondly, this team has to walk with a swagger, but they have to play with a swagger as well. It is all good to walk into a stadium like you are big and bad, but it is another to play like it.

It is the spring and this program is going to reach a crossroads at the beginning of this season. It can continue to finish 7-4 or 8-3 and vie for MIAA titles, or it can prove that it is the best program in the MIAA.

Beating Pittsburg State University at Arrowhead is great, but that should not define a season for this school anymore. That would have been a great end to a season in 1995 or 1996, but in 2004 this team should be shooting for a home game the second week of the playoffs.

Win or lose, that is an acceptable end to the season in my view.

Bill Knust can be contacted at 562-1224 or bknuat@missourianonline.com



Head to Head combat

Defensive linemen Steve Williams and Ryan Waters hit heads while tackling freshman running back Xavier Omon during last Thursday's scrimmage.

PHOTO BY COLEYOUNG/SPORTS EDITOR

CONTINUED from 1B

Softball squad shuts out No. 20 Emporia State Hornets; Seniors honored today during game against Lincoln

from freshmen Schulenberg and Tammy Phillips who each knocked in one run.

Kelly Hainline pitched for the 'Cats and retired the first eight batters she saw. She managed to get out of a bases loaded jam in the sixth as she only gave up four hits and one walk in the 4-0 victory for the 'Cats. It was Hainline's sixth win for the

'Cats.

"I'm ecstatic for Kelly," Anderson said about Hainline's performance. "That was probably one of the best games I have seen Kelly pitch. She really took her time, she hit her spots. When she's doing that, she's a force to be reckoned with and that's what we need, we need; her to slow down, take her

time and put the ball exactly where she wants it and not just in an area."

The team's record is now 16-27 overall and 7-5 in the MIAA. The team plays Lincoln University today at 3:30 p.m. in their last home game of the season. It will be seniors Heather Conary, McCoy, Spring and Nimmo's last home game as Bearcats.



PHOTO BY COLEYOUNG/SPORTS EDITOR

Offensive coordinator Bart Tatum, along with other offensive coaches and injured wide receiver Morris White, watch the action during Thursday's scrimmage at Rickenbrode.

CONTINUED from 1B

Tatum adjusts to life in coach's box after years of coaching from sidelines

coordinator role. He described the move as seamless, saying there were very few issues that have popped up so far. Another thing helping Tatum's switch is returning quarterback Josh Lamberson. The coach had many kind words for his star pupil.

"If there has ever been a player at this institution in football that didn't require a coach jumping on him for mistakes it is Josh Lamberson," Tatum said. "He is a superior student of the game—the ultimate student of the game. He has a 4.0 in the class room and he is a 4.0 football student."

"On multiple occasions in our practices, he has spotted things standing

in back when the other quarterbacks were going, and in drill work when the other quarterbacks are going and he is observing. He is a coach on the field."

Striving for the top

The two national championships happened just six and five years ago, respectively. The record setting offenses that scorched the grass in Rickenbrode Stadium still live on in people's minds.

Tatum wants his offense to reach those levels.

"I am excited about the offense, but I am totally unsatisfied," Tatum said. "I mean, if you were to base our production this spring against our offensive units of the last two or three

years that went 8-3 and struggled to earn a tie for the conference title, then we are at that level or above that level. But, that's not what we measure ourselves against. I want us to measure ourselves against those units that were averaging 48 points a game over 15 games, averaging 500-plus yards a game. That's what I want to measure ourselves against and we are nowhere near that right now. I am satisfied because there has been progress. I am unsatisfied because we are nowhere where we need to be to compete on a national level."

So what does the Bearcat offense need to do to get to those levels?

"We've got to keep pounding,"

Tatum said. "We've got to get better up front in terms of our fundamentals in recognizing different fronts and blitzes, just being comfortable with our schemes. We've got to get better at the tailback spot and so far, our tight end play has been average. We've shown progress, but it is just not where it needs to be."

And what is Tatum's goal for this season?

"I just want to contribute to getting our team to a nationally competitive level because we have not been," Tatum said. "You could make an argument that we have been, but we lost four games (last season). That's unacceptable here."

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Maryville still winless; Netters face Irish next

By ANTHONY STEINS
MISSOURIAN REPORTER

The Maryville Spoofhounds boys tennis team had their eyes set on their first victory of the season, but the sweet smell just wasn't there.

The Shenandoah, Iowa Mustangs thwarted the upset bid by racing out of Maryville with a 9-0 victory Tuesday at the High Rise tennis courts.

Junior Galen Gibson-Cornell would be the closest 'Hound to victory, falling in No. 5 singles (7-9), while senior Charles Bradley fell in No. 3 singles (5-8).

"Things didn't work out like I wanted them to, but I gained some confidence playing in the match," Bradley said. "We just didn't get the breaks."

'Hounds No. 1 Senior Chris Douglas struggled to overcome the powerful serve of Mustangs senior Matt Johnson, falling 2-8.

Despite falling to a tough team, Douglas was full of opti-

mism of what could lie ahead.

"Out of all other matches this year, today was probably the best we have played," Douglas said. "If we had played this way in other matches, we might have been able to bring home a victory."

Despite the loss, 'Hounds head coach Rob Veasey was pleased with the effort displayed by his team.

"I think the guys are doing well; they are stepping up, not giving up and pushing for every point," Veasey said.

Prior to facing Shenandoah, the 'Hounds fell in a tough battle with the St. Joseph Win Cardinals (3-6). Picking up win for singles were No. 5 Gibson Cornell (8-2) and No. 6 Sophomore Ky Hill (8-0). In No. 3 doubles, Bradley and Hill were 8-6 victors.

The 'Hounds (0-5) will be back in action Tuesday when they travel south to face Midland Empire conference foe Lafayette Fighting Irish.

Anthony Steins can be contacted at 562-1224 or astains@missourianonline.com



PHOTO BY COLEYOUNG/SPORTS EDITOR
Junior Skyler Vandiver delivers a pitch in the first inning against Chillicothe on Tuesday. Vandiver gave up four runs in the inning. The 'Hounds were shelled 15-0 by the MEC foe.

Hornets shutout 'Hounds; Savannah up next for squad

By COLE YOUNG
SPORTS EDITOR

It's amazing what a day can do to a baseball team.

After running through St. Pius X 8-3 on Monday, the Spoofhounds faced their own roadblock on Tuesday.

"We had runs on Monday," head coach Brian Lohaf said. "I have no idea what happened on Tuesday — I asked the kids the same thing."

The 'Hounds inability to score any runs coupled with a less-than-stellar pitching performance resulted in a 15-0 loss to Midland Empire Conference rival Chillicothe.

After junior Skylar Vandiver gave up four runs on three hits in the first inning, the scoring barrage was on.

The Hornets scored five runs in the second inning before tacking on another six in the third.

Lohaf said he gave the start to Vandiver because of his strong performances at the junior varsity level.

"He had done really good for us playing junior varsity," Lohaf said. "We thought maybe he could come out and do the same thing for the varsity."

During the 'Hounds first trip to the

plate it seemed they might be able to get some offense going themselves.

Senior Bryce Buholt reached first on a base hit, but was thrown out trying to steal second; a play indicative of the entire game. Buholt had 15 stolen bases on the season. Tuesday was the first time he had been caught stealing all year.

"Usually, if we can get Bryce on, we are going to try and move him across," Lohaf said. "It is a good way for us to test the catchers arm."

In the game, Maryville had just one player reach third base, D.J. Siepel in the fifth inning.

Monday things went a little better for the 'Hounds.

After jumping out to a 1-0 lead on a leadoff home run by Buholt, the 'Hounds would never trail.

The 'Hounds tacked on three more runs in the third inning from a pair of doubles from Buholt and junior Josh Wilmes. Those two, along with sophomore Dylan Cloepfil, all scored runs.

In the fourth inning Drew Demott homered, extending their lead to 5-2.

Maryville is back in action at home against Savannah at 4:30 today.

Fundamentals and communication fuel Maryville to win over Midland Empire opponent

By JEREMY SCHWENK
MISSOURIAN REPORTER

Changes were presumably for the better Tuesday afternoon for the Spoofhound soccer team with a 5-0 shutout win over the Benton Cardinals.

In a game that would eventually stand out far beyond any other of the Lady 'Hounds' previous games this season, this was the one the girls distanced themselves from the opposing team so much it could almost be related to perfection.

From coaching technique to communication skills to simply

doing the things needed to win, the 'Hounds changed the way they play the game.

"They played their positions better and did the things they needed to do to win," assistant coach Stuart Collins said.

The 'Hounds scored in the early minutes of the first half by Junior Jennifer Nunn in a half that would challenge the 'Hounds' defense and speed. The lone goal began to show promise of an air tight game that would be lost to the first mistake-able team.

But that wasn't the case when forward Sarah Wynn scored an early

goal for the 'Hounds with just under five minutes gone into the second half. That goal was matched by 'Hounds keeper Mallory Herring's leaping save by the only promising shot from the Cardinals.

Wynn followed the goal with another shot that just by the diving Cardinals keeper.

The 'Hounds defense was fueled through communication throughout the second half.

"We have been talking more and have started to communicate a lot better," said senior Laura Gallagher whose goal in the second half was created by a last-second assist by

sophomore Dana Demott, which helped the 'Hounds separate themselves from the Cardinals with a score of 4-0.

"The team is working together more and communicating better," head coach Bayo Oludaja said. "We have significantly improved since our first game."

The game was a token for two different styles of coaching that would be the beneficiary for the 'Hounds win.

"Our principle is to play to the best of our ability and enjoy each game," said Oludaja. "Our style is not to chew them out when they

make a mistake, but to encourage them to learn from the mistake and do better the next time. That enables us all to enjoy the game."

That coaching style was faced by the Cardinals' enthusiastic approach to communicating and coaching during the game.

"We try to do our coaching during practice," Collins said. "We just try to encourage them during the game."

Tuesday's game followed a 2-1 loss to Lafayette last Thursday. After that loss, the 'Hounds made some position moves to face Benton that worked out for best, including

moving Ann Hagen from keeper to middle defense.

"She did an excellent job," Collins said. "It also helps her get a better feel for another position."

Oludaja said the flexible lineup has led to success.

"We have a group of talented players that we could move around depending on the need," Oludaja said. "That was what we did and it worked."

The 'Hounds will hope to match Tuesday's win 4:30 pm today in Smithville.

Jeremy Schwenk can be contacted at 562-1224 or jshwenk@missourianonline.com



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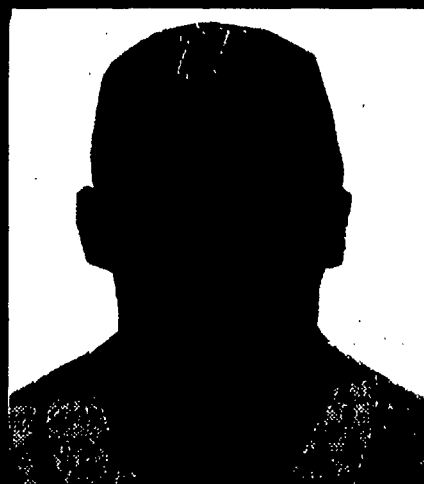
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Maryville freshman Andy Schreck glides over the hurdles during the 110-meter hurdle race. Maryville finished second overall in the boys' competition and third overall in the girls' competition. They will run again on Friday at the Northwest Quad State Invitational.

'Hounds fall short of winning own meet; Quad State Invite up next

By JEROME BOETTCHER
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Despite 11 combined first place finishes, the Maryville boys' and girls' track teams couldn't come away with the Maryville Invitational title on Tuesday.

The boys fell 15.5 points short of winning the meet. They finished second overall, right behind conference rival Platte County. The girls, who had three first place finishes, finished third overall, behind MEC foes Smithville and Cameron.

The boys brought home eight first place finishes. The 4x200, 4x100 and the 4x400 relay teams took first. Senior Jared Renfro won the 100 meter dash. Senior Keaton Guess took first in the 300-meter hurdles. In the field

events Craig Stiens won the pole vault with a jump of 11 feet. Ben McKim won the discus with a throw of 150'11" and junior Syd Brisbane won the triple jump.

"I'd like to throw farther," said Eric Wilmarth, who finished fourth in the shot put and 110 meter high hurdles. "I need to throw farther to get to places like sectionals and state, but I'm pretty pleased with it."

On the girls' side, the team finished with a total of 105 points, just six behind Smithville who finished second.

Megan Hayden took first in the 400-meter race. Kristin Degase won the triple jump with a jump of 33 feet. The 4x800 and 4x100 relay teams finished third, the 4x200 relay team finished first and the 4x400 finished second.

"The handoffs are not the easiest thing, but whenever you work with the same people it gets easier and easier and you just get use to each other," said senior Hilary Reynolds, a member of those relays. "It just makes the race go more smoothly."

Reynolds, who also finished fourth in the long jump, is happy with the success and thinks the new "positive" coach has something to do with it.

"We've already improved from last year," she said. "Last year we weren't very organized and we weren't very close or anything. But this year we're a lot closer and everyone is running pretty good, so I think we are going to do a lot better this year."

The team will now participate in the Northwest Quad State Invitational at Rickenbrode Stadium on Friday.

A tradition unlike any other comes to rest

And the people said "amen." Well, maybe not everyone who watched The Masters this weekend was pleased to see Phil Mickelson win his first green jacket, but I was.

The reason for my joy, however, wasn't so much that it killed me to see one of the best golfers in the world

never capture a major tournament title. Instead, I was sick of hearing about how poor old Phil could never win a major.

Jim Nantz of CBS says it every year in commercials for The Masters, "It's a tradition like no other, The Masters on CBS."

Is the actual tournament the true tradition though? I always think of the tradition being Tiger Woods making a charge on the final day to at least make the tournament interesting. What also seems to be the tradition is Mickelson being within striking distance on the final day only to implode like no other.

Lefty cracking on Sunday is just what is supposed to happen. It's almost like the law.

Just as the Jayhawks are supposed to choke at some point during the NCAA tournament, Phil isn't supposed to win a major.

Now what needs to happen to end the tireless complaining about teams or athletes being "cursed," is for the Red Sox and Cubs to make it to the World Series.

Not because I want either of the teams to make it that far, I just want to hear about actual news on

SportsCenter.

I don't want to take anything away from Phil, though; he provided for one of the best Masters finishes in recent history.

That fact of course is overshadowed by the "lifting of the curse."

It is a good story though. Perennial choke-art finally exercises demons in a meaningful tournament. I can see the book now: "Chicken soup for the Phil Mickelson fan's soul."

Even I got a little excited when he won the tournament. I went as far as to call a high school friend in Florida, just to ask if he had seen it.

He of course was asleep though, proving just how much anyone really cares that Phil won the tournament.

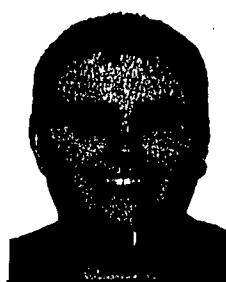
While everyone knows he won the tournament, in the grand scheme of things, how much does it matter?

And let us not forget the South African who made for the thrilling finish.

Though almost anyone in America could tell you that Phil Mickelson won The Masters, about 30 percent could say Ernie Els got second. That is truly sad considering he was a 20-foot putt away from going to a playoff with the new-found savior of golf.

Congratulations Phil and thanks for not making me feel guilty about cheering for you to lose in the other three majors.

Out of Bounds



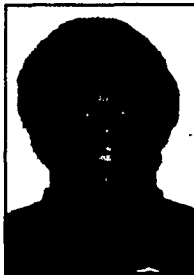
COLE
YOUNG
SPORTS
EDITOR

ARMCHAIR QUARTERBACK

What position should the Chiefs draft in the first round?



"Defense, more specifically linebackers."
MIKE RUST
Finance



"I think they should draft a cornerback, because they were getting beat deep too much last season."
KENNETH DAVIS
Accounting



"Linebacker because they need help on defense!"
SKYLAR ROLF
Business/
Marketing



"They should pick a middle linebacker, because they have youth in other positions, and they need a little help there."
SAUDA HOLMAN
Accounting



"Anything defense, we need it!"
KEVIN DAHLQUIST
Undecided

MARYVILLE TRACK & FIELD RESULTS	
MEN	WOMEN
4x800R- 2nd, 9:02.13	4x800R- 3rd, 10:56.57
110h- C. Laper, 2nd, 16.82	110h- S. Pierson, 3rd, 17.80
100m- J. Renfro, 1st, 11.22	4x200R- 1st, 1:53.86
4x200R- 1st, 1:34.48	4x100R- 3rd, 54.26
4x100R- 1st, 44.67	400m- M. Hayden, 1st, 1:04.48
400m- T. McClellan, 2nd, 53.65	300h- J. Guess, 2nd, 53.04
300h- K. Guess, 1st, 43.42	4x400R- 2nd, 4:24.57
4x400R- 1st, 3:33.38	Discus- H. Blackney, 2nd, 93'8"
Pole Vault- C. Stiens, 1st, 11'	Triple Jump- K. Degase, 1st, 33'
Shot Put- B. McKim, 2nd, 46'11.5"	
Discus- B. McKim, 1st, 150'11"	
Triple Jump- S. Brisbane, 1st, 40'	
Overall Results: 1. Platte County, 194	Overall Results: 1. Chillicothe, 171
2. Maryville, 178.5; 3. Chillicothe, 124	2. Smithville, 111; 3. Maryville, 105
4. Smithville, 57.5; 5. Trenton, 57.6	4. Platte County, 88; 5. Trenton, 80; 6
Cameron, 40; 7. Savannah, 34	Cameron, 52; 7. Patonsburg, 37; 7
	Savannah, 37

FAN PLAN

	TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Northwest baseball			Missouri-Rolla 1 p.m.	Missouri-Rolla noon			
Northwest softball			Missouri Southern 2 p.m.	Pittsburg State 12:30 p.m.		Truman State 2 p.m.	
Northwest men's tennis	Central	Oklahoma Tournament					
Northwest women's tennis	Central	Oklahoma Tournament					
'Hounds baseball						Pony Express Tournament	
'Hounds girls' soccer	Smithville 4:30 p.m.	North Kansas City Tournament					

■ GAME TO WATCH: The softball team wraps up a short home season as they host Lincoln University today at 2:30 p.m. The team will say goodbye to four seniors today. Senior Angie McCoy, who holds the career record for the most home runs by a Bearcat, currently leads the team this season with seven homers and 22 RBIs.

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